

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PCH-28 /043 R

66011

DRAFTED BY: IO/ML: MARTIN JACOBS

APPROVED BY: IO/M SA: TBROWN

-----116707 151428Z /47

R 150327Z MAR 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO NONALIGNED MOVEMENT COLLECTIVE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BANGUI POUCH

AMEMBASSY BANJUL POUCH

AMEMBASSY BISSAU POUCH

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS POUCH

AMEMBASSY GABORONE POUCH

AMEMBASSY KIGALI POUCH

AMEMBASSY LILONGWE POUCH

AMEMBASSY LOME POUCH

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO POUCH

AMEMBASSY MBABANE POUCH

AMEMBASSY MASERU POUCH

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO POUCH

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU POUCH

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE POUCH

XMT AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY BANJUL

AMEMBASSY BISSAU

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

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AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 066197

FOLLOWING REPEAT COLOMBO 1176 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO USUN

MAR 13.

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 1176

DEPT PASS TO ALL NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, CU, CE

SUBJ: REPORT ON SPECIAL MEETING OF NON-ALIGNED FOREIGN MINISTERS
IN NEW YORK

1. MARCH 12 LOCAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER CARRIED BANNER HEADLINE THAT SRI LANKA IS CALLING A SPECIAL NON-ALIGNED SESSION IN NEW YORK. ACCORDING TO REPORT, NON-ALIGNED FOREIGN MINISTERS WILL MEET PRIOR TO UN SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT (SSOD) SCHEDULED TO START MAY 23. PURPOSE OF THE NON-ALIGNED MEETING WILL BE TO SEEK NON-ALIGNED AGREEMENT ON POSITIONS REACHED AT NON-ALIGNED COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING IN KABUL MAY 6-10.

2. MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA) DIRECTOR OF NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE DIVISION N.M.M.I. HUSSAIN TOLD POL OFFICER THAT PRESS REPORT WAS PREMATURE AND INDICATED THAT FOREIGN MINISTER MAY HAVE LEAKED IT. WHILE DECLINING TO CONFIRM PRESS REPORT, HUSSAIN SAID IN CONFIDENCE THAT THERE ARE SOME MOVES GOING ON
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FOR A PRE-SSOD MEETING OF NON-ALIGNED FOREIGN MINISTERS SINCE MANY OF THEM WILL BE IN NEW YORK FOR THE SSOD. HE VERIFIED PURPOSE OF MEETING AS THAT REPORTED IN PRESS.

3. IN DISCUSSION OF TRENDS WITHIN NAM, HUSSAIN EXPRESSED OPINION THAT THERE WILL BE INCREASING MODERATION, EXCEPT POSSIBLY ON THE AFRICAN ISSUES. HUSSAIN DOES NOT FORESEE RADICALIZATION OF THE NAM AFTER CUBA ASSUMES CHAIRMANDHIP. HE POINTED TO CUBAN MODERATION AT THE NACC MEETING IN NEW DELHI LAST YEAR AS AN INDICATION. ALTHOUGH HE DOES NOT RULE OUT THE RADICAL FRINGE TRYING TO GAIN CONTROL OF THE MOVEMENT WHEN CUBA TAKES OVER, HE SEES THE MODERATION OF THE MAJORITY OF THE NAM COUNTRIES WORKING AS A CONSTRAINT. CUBA, HE OPINED, IN ASSUMING THE CHAIRMANSHIP AND THE PRESTIGE THAT GOES WITH IT WILL ALSO BE ASSUMING CONSTRAINTS ON ITS FREEDOM OF UNILATERAL ACTIONS. MOREOVER, HE DOES NOT BELIEVE CUBA WOULD WANT TO CREATE A SITUATION IN THE NAM THAT CONCEIVABLY WOULD LEAD TO COMPLETE DISENCHANTMENT OF THE NON RADICALS AND POSSIBLE DISSOLUTION OF THE MOVEMENT WHILE CUBA IS CHAIRMAN.

4. HUSSAIN SAID THAT SRI LANKA WILL BE RELIVED TO BE OUT OF THE CHAIR. HE EXPECTS SRI LANKA ONCE FREE OF THE CHAIR-

MANSHIP'S CONSTRAINTS TO WORK EVEN MORE ACTIVELY FOR MODERATE POSITIONS, ALTHOUGH HE REALIZES THAT SRI LANKA WILL HAVE CONSIDERABLY LESS INFLUENCE AS AN ORDINARY MEMBER. SRI LANKA WILL CONTINUE AS A MEMBER OF THE NACC BY VIRTUE OF HAVING BEEN CHAIRMAN. PRECISELY WHAT POSITIONS SRI LANKA WILL TAKE AND HOW ACTIVELY IT WILL PURSUE THOSE INTERESTS WILL BE DICTATED BY WHAT GOVERNMENT POLICY IS AT ANY GIVEN TIME. AT THE MOMENT, HE SAID, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CONSIDERATIONS CARRY THE HEAVIEST WEIGHT IN FOREIGN POLICY DECISIONS.

5. MFA HAS NOT YET RECEIVED FROM NEW YORK DRAFT AGENDA FOR KABUL MEETING. HUSSAIN EXPECTS THAT THERE WILL BE ATTEMPTS AS IN THE PAST TO AVOID CONTROVERSIAL SUBJECTS, BUT THAT AFRICAN ISSUES WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE RAISED AND DEBATED.
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6. COMMENT: HUSSAIN, AN EXTREMELY SOFT-SPOKEN, CAUTIOUS OFFICIAL, TENDS TO DOWN-PLAY CONTROVERSY AND IS GIVEN TO BANAL OBSERVATIONS. THIS MAY ACCOUNT FOR HIS OPTIMISTIC ASSESSMENT OF CUBA'S FUTURE MODERATION.
WRIGGINS UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NONALIGNED NATIONS, MEETING REPORTS, FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE066197
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: IO/ML: MARTIN JACOBS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780115-0384
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780365/aaaacom.tel
Line Count: 142
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ed40cec6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3321399
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPORT ON SPECIAL MEETING OF NON-ALIGNED FOREIGN MINISTERS IN NEW YORK
TAGS: PORG, CU, CE
To: NONALIGNED MOVEMENT COLLECTIVE BUCHAREST MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ed40cec6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014